

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

he

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO	. F	ILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/670,975		09/27/2000	Charles E. May	00-140	6488
24319	7590	05/25/2005		EXAMINER	
		PRATION	KIELIN, ERIK J		
1621 BAR MS: D-106	BER LANI	3		ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER	
MILPITAS	MILPITAS, CA 95035			2813	
				DATE MAILED: 05/25/200	5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

69/670975

• /			
APPLICATION NO./	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR /	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
CONTROL NO.		PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	

EXAMINER

ART UNIT PAPER

20050524

DATE MAILED:

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner for Patents

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 9-20 to inventions non-elected with traverse in the reply filed on 26 June 2003. Applicant is given ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the date of this letter, whichever is longer, to cancel the noted claims or take other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144). Failure to take action during this period will be treated as authorization to cancel the noted claims by Examiner's Amendment and pass the case to issue. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted since this application will be passed to issue.

The prosecution of this case is closed except for consideration of the above matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

- 2. Claims 1-5, 7-9 are allowed.
- 3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are considered allowable to the extent that Applicant's argument in the Appeal Brief are correct in regard to the following: even though some steps recited in the method are optional, that the applied art must be capable of performing all of the steps in the sequence provided is required. In this regard, the applied art does not teach or suggest, in the context of the claim, that the both the temperature and flow rate of the coolant flowing through the wafer chuck must be adjusted to control the temperature of the wafer before the process energy is adjusted to control the temperature of the wafer. (See Appeal Brief filed 31 January 2005, pp. 6-7.) Again, to the extent that Applicant's argument is correct that optional method steps (i.e. those steps **not**

Page 3

performed because the temperature of the wafer is within the desired range) make the method patentably distinct from the applied art of record, the claims 1-5 and 7-9 are considered allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance"

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erik Kielin whose telephone number is 571-272-1693. The examiner can normally be reached from 9:00 - 19:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Whitehead, Jr. can be reached on 571-272-1702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Erik Kielin

Primary Examiner

May 24, 2005